



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Petersburg
National Battlefield

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Petersburg National Battlefield News Release

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Virginia and Appomattox Plantation Goes to War

PETERSBURG, Va – On Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and May 15, 2011, Petersburg National Battlefield will conduct special walking tours and programs commemorating the 150th anniversary of Virginia's secession from the United States. On Saturday guided tours focusing on the reaction of the Eppes family and the enslaved people who worked for them to the news of Virginia's secession in the spring of 1861 will be offered at 11:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:45 p.m. In addition to the guided tours, living historians will provide informal talks to visitors from 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

All programs are free and will take place at the General Grant's Headquarters Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield located at 1001 Pecan Avenue, Hopewell, Virginia.

About Virginia's Secession and Appomattox Plantation

On April 17, 1861, the Virginia secession convention voted to secede from the United States.

This vote came after President Abraham Lincoln's call to all states that had not declared secession, including Virginia, for troops to assist in halting the insurrection in the south.

Appomattox Plantation was home to Dr. Richard Eppes. During the war the plantation located at City Point served as the headquarters for General Ulysses S. Grant during the siege of Petersburg. In addition to being the location of Grant's headquarters City Point served as the supply base for Union forces at Petersburg.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

If you go

The General Grant's Headquarters Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield is open seven days a week, every day of the year except for major holidays. Visitors can view a 15-minute video and participate in a tour of the 18th century home of the Eppes Family. The grounds are open until dark and include numerous wayside exhibits on the lawn surrounding the home and on the James River waterfront. For more information, please call (804) 732-3531 ext. 200.

Petersburg National Battlefield was created in order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865. The park staff is committed to preserving and protecting the historical, cultural, and natural resources within the park in a manner that will provide interpretation, education, and enjoyment for the visitors. Park Visitor Centers, located in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Dinwiddie County are each open from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The fee to enter the park is \$5 per vehicle. The Petersburg National Battlefield annual pass and federal recreation passes are also honored. For more information about events at Petersburg National Battlefield, you can become a fan on our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter @PetersburgNPS.

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